

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Fig. 1 shows a print system. This system incorporates a function of preventing forgery. In this system, a specified image (shape) or a specified pattern in the image data is detected in input image data or in data obtained by predetermined processing on the input image data, and when the specified image or pattern is detected, the image is inhibited to be reproduced. A computer 1 controls the entire system. The computer 1 has a central processing unit (CPU), a read-only memory (ROM) ~~[[and]]~~, a random access memory (RAM), display 2, keyboard 3 and mouse 4. Further, it includes a flexible disk drive 5b, a hard disk drive ~~[[6b]]~~ 6, and a CD-ROM drive 9b for memory media of a flexible disk 5a, a hard disk and a CD-ROM 9a. A computer program for image processing and a printer driver 120 explained later are read from such a recording medium. The computer 1 is also connected to a scanner 8 as an image input unit for acquiring image data and a printer 7 for printing image data. Further, the computer 1 can be connected to a different image input unit (for example, disk drive 5b1 with disk 5a) or a different image output unit through a network 10. The above-mentioned system structure is common to other examples explained later. In this system, the program for controlling the system is stored in the CD-ROM 9a as a recording medium. However, it may be read from a different recording medium. The scanner 8 is used as an image input unit, but a different unit such as a digital camera can also be used as an image input unit. Further, the printer 7 is used as an output unit, but a digital copying machine or the like may also be used as an output unit.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] In the processing for preventing forgery, data to be checked are image data. As shown in Fig. 2, when the application 100 instructs print of image data, the image data is sent through the printer driver 120 to the printer 7. Practically, after the data is edited or checked by the application, it is sent to the printer driver 120. Then, conversion of the data in correspondence to the printer 7 is performed in the printer driver 120, and the data is printed by the printer 7. For prevention of forgery, a detector 140 is provided further. The printer ~~[[drier]]~~ driver 120 sends input image data to the detector 140. When the specified pattern is not detected, the detector 140 sends print permission command to the printer driver, but when the specified pattern is detected, the detector 140 sends print inhibition command to the printer driver. The output control is performed by taking the print permission signal from the detector 140 into account.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] Fig. 4 shows a conversion by the printer driver 120 of print data received from the application 100 to output data to be sent to the printer 7. Fig. 4 shows processings in the printer driver 120 as functional blocks. First, a data distributor 122 analyses input data (print data) and distributes the data according to data type. If the input data is a vector data, the vector data is expanded to bit map data by a vector data processor 124 based on calculation on the vector. If the input data is a text data, the text data is expanded to bit map data by a text data processor according to font size, font data and the like stored in the ROM. If the input data is bit map data, the input data is loaded to bit map data to be outputted by a bit map

data processor 128 by taking the position, overlapping and resolution into account. An image combiner 130 combines the bit map data received from the processors 124, 126, 128 to generate bit map data of one page. The developed bit map data is sent to a detector 140. The detector detects whether a specified pattern is included or not and returns the detection result. Because the image combiner 130 is located at a position where all the image data passes, the detector 140 receives image data at that position so that all the image data can be acquired. (The detector 140 may be located at a position in the color change processor 132, as will be explained later with reference to Fig. 5.) Next, the color change processor 132 converts the multi-level RGB data to CMYK data of print colors in correspondence to the characteristics of the printer 7. Next, a printer command generator 134 generates a printer control command and sends it to the printer 7. If necessary, CMYK data are sent to the printer 7. **[[##]]**

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] Fig. 7 shows conversion to the data outputted to the printer when print data are received from the print driver 120' in the computer. The processing from the data distributor **[[222']]** 222, processors 224, 226, 228, image combiner 230, color change processor 232, detector 240 to the printer command generator **[[234']]** 234 is similar to the counterpart from the data distributor 122, processor 124, 126, 128, image combiner 130, color change processor 132, detector 140 to the printer command generator 134 and the explanation thereof is omitted here. However, it is to be noted that the detection by the detector 240 is performed on the data obtained by the image combiner 230.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] Fig. 8 shows a print system where a command for printer control generated by the printer driver through a spooler. When an application 100 instructs print, data to be printed are stored in a spool file 162 in a spooler 160 through the printer driver 120. The printer driver 120 sends image data to the detector 140, and the detector 140 send the result of the detection to the printer driver 120. Thus, the detector 140 performs the detection before generating a spool file 162. The data of pages to be outputted after being subjected to the detection are stored in the spool file 162. Therefore, the output to the printer 7 can be controlled according to the result of the detection. The file in the spooler 160 is printed at the printer 7. Because the detection is performed at the upstream side of the spool file, image output can be inhibited before printing.